

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method comprising:

receiving an incoming telephone call at a private branch exchange, the telephone call directed to a telephone extension of the private branch exchange;

determining a call routing preference associated with the extension; and

routing the telephone call based on the call routing preference, wherein routing the telephone call includes:

routing the telephone call to a telephone associated with the extension if the call routing preference is set to a first preference, and

routing the telephone call to a computing device associated with the extension if the call routing preference is set to a second preference.
2. The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the call routing preference at a call router.
3. The method of claim 2, wherein the call router stores a plurality of call routing preferences for a plurality of extensions of the private branch exchange.
4. The method of claim 2, further comprising setting a call routing preference through a web browser interface.

5. The method of claim 1, further comprising automatically setting the call routing preference to the second preference when the computing device associated with the extension is detached from a docking station.
6. The method of claim 1, wherein routing the telephone call to the computing device comprises:
 - encoding a voice signal of the telephone call into a digital format for transmission over a network;
 - determining a username associated with the extension;
 - determining a network address associated with the username, the network address assigned to the computing device; and
 - routing the telephone call to the network address.
7. The method of claim 6, wherein the computing device is connected to the network through a wireless connection.
8. The method of claim 6, wherein routing the telephone call to the computing device further comprises displaying an icon on a display of the computing device to indicate the incoming telephone call.
9. The method of claim 6, further comprising receiving the telephone call at the computing device.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein routing the telephone call to the computing device further comprises storing a voice mail message on the computing device if the incoming telephone call is not answered.

11. An article of manufacture comprising:

a machine-accessible medium including data that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to perform operations comprising:

receiving an incoming telephone call at a private branch exchange, the telephone call directed to a telephone extension of the private branch exchange;

determining a call routing preference associated with the extension; and

routing the telephone call based on the call routing preference, wherein

routing the telephone call includes:

routing the telephone call to a telephone associated with the

extension if the call routing preference is set to a first preference, and

routing the telephone call to a computing device associated with

the extension if the call routing preference is set to a second preference.

12. The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein the machine-accessible medium further includes data that cause the machine to perform operations comprising storing the call routing preference at a call router.

13. The article of manufacture of claim 12, wherein the call router stores a plurality of call routing preferences for a plurality of extensions of the private branch exchange.

14. The article of manufacture of claim 12, wherein the machine-accessible medium further includes data that cause the machine to perform operations comprising setting a call routing preference through a web browser interface.

15. The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein the machine-accessible medium further includes data that cause the machine to perform operations comprising automatically setting the call routing preference to the second preference when the computing device associated with the extension is detached from a docking station.

16. The article of manufacture of claim 11, wherein routing the telephone call to the computing device comprises:

encoding a voice signal of the telephone call into a digital format for transmission over a network;

determining a username associated with the extension;

determining a network address associated with the username, the network address assigned to the computing device; and

routing the telephone call to the network address.

17. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the computing device is connected to the network through a wireless connection.

18. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein routing the telephone call to the computing device further comprises displaying an icon on a display of the computing device to indicate the incoming telephone call.

19. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein the machine-accessible medium further includes data that cause the machine to perform operations comprising receiving the telephone call at the computing device.

20. The article of manufacture of claim 16, wherein routing the telephone call to the computing device further comprises storing a voice mail message on the computing device if the incoming telephone call is not answered.

21. A system comprising:

- a private branch exchange to receive an incoming telephone call directed to a telephone extension of the private branch exchange;
- a computing device associated with the extension;
- a call router to determine a call routing preference associated with the extension and to route the telephone call based on the call routing preference, wherein the call router routes the telephone call to a telephone associated with the extension if the call routing preference is set to a first preference, and wherein the call router routes the telephone call to the computing device associated with the extension if the call routing preference is set to a second preference; and
- a twisted-pair cable connected to the computing device.

22. The system of claim 21, further comprising the call router to store the call routing preference.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein the call router stores a plurality of call routing preferences for a plurality of extensions of the private branch exchange.

24. The system of claim 22, further comprising a web browser interface to set a call routing preference.

25. The system of claim 21, further comprising the call router to automatically set the call routing preference to the second preference when the computing device associated with the extension is detached from a docking station.

26. The system of claim 21, further comprising:
a gateway to encode a voice signal of the telephone call into a digital format for transmission over a network; and
a gatekeeper to determine a username associated with the extension, to determine a network address associated with the username, the network address assigned to the computing device, and to route the telephone call to the network address.

27. The system of claim 21, wherein the computing device is selected from the group consisting of a desktop computer, a laptop computer and a personal digital assistant.
28. The system of claim 26, further comprising an icon displayed on a display of the computing device to indicate the incoming telephone call.
29. The system of claim 26, further comprising the computing device to receive the telephone call.
30. The system of claim 29, further comprising a headset coupled to the computing device.